

Landings

Best Management Practices
*for water quality while
harvesting forest products*

Landings

LANDINGS ARE AREAS WHERE FOREST PRODUCTS ARE COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING, LOADING AND TRANSPORT, AND ARE ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE AND IMPACTED PARTS OF ANY TIMBER HARVEST. IF LANDINGS ARE NOT PROPERLY LOCATED AND MAINTAINED THE CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITIES MAY CAUSE COMPACTION, EROSION OR SEDIMENTATION.

Landings

The following recommendations should be considered when planning, locating and constructing landings:

- Use existing landings that meet BMP standards.
- Locate new landings in advance of access road construction.
- Locate landings on firm, well-drained soils with a slight slope, or crown, to promote efficient drainage.
- Locate landings away from natural drainages and divert runoff away from streams.
- Minimize the number and size of landings.
- Locate residue piles such as *slash*, sawdust or chips away from drainages where runoff may wash residue into streams, lakes or wetlands.



- On skid roads that lead downhill into landings, prevent water from flowing into the landing and pooling by locating drainage structures such as **water bars** prior to the landing to divert runoff into a stable area.
- Use tracking pads where trucks enter public roads during or in anticipation of muddy conditions. Tracking pads consist of materials such as stone, wood chips, or tire mats and must be long enough to allow mud to



fall off the tires before the vehicle leaves the site. Periodic maintenance may be required to keep the tracking pad clean and in working condition.

- On the truck roads, locate drainage structures such as water bars and ***broad based dips*** leading out of the landing to prevent water and sediment from flowing onto public roads.

See the **Post Harvest Wrap-Up** section for recommendations on stabilizing the landing. For guidelines on general equipment maintenance, and for hazardous materials see the **Hazardous Materials** section of the manual.